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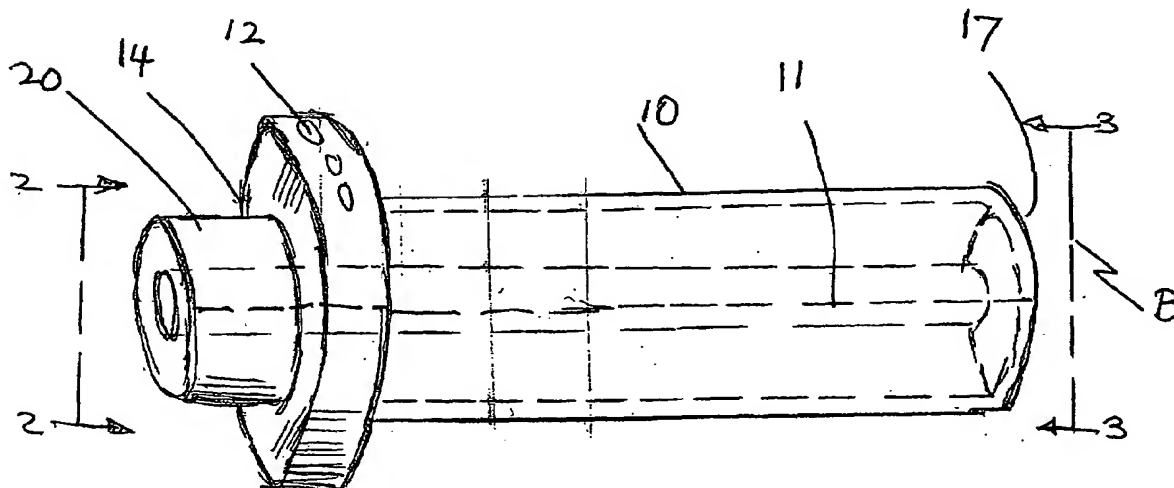
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(54) Title: ENDOSCOPE LUBRICATING AND GRIPPING DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A non-invasive device for lubricating and facilitating the insertion and removal of an endoscope into a body cavity. In one embodiment, the device consists of an annular outer tube having an inner diameter sized to permit sliding of an endoscope therethrough. The outer surface of the outer tube may be suitably textured for improved gripping. A foam annular tube is positioned within the outer tube, with an inner diameter slightly less than the normal outer diameter of the endoscope so that passage of the endoscope compresses the foam as it is passed through. The foam tube may be saturated with a lubricant which is forced from the foam to coat the endoscope as it moves through. Flanges positioned respectively at the distal and proximal ends of the tube provide a barrier to movement of excess lubricant onto the central portion of the tube. The invention also comprises the use of a reservoir for lubricants to be applied to the endoscope as it passes through the device.

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